

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original) A model for the study of the (regulation of) expression, synthesis and/or secretion of ghrelin, comprising in vitro culture of a cell line derived from a gastric adenocarcinoma, said cell line being capable of producing ghrelin, and said model also comprising a medium suitable for growing said cell line.

Claim 2 (Original) A model according to claim 1, wherein the cell line is selected from RF-1 having ATCC number CRL-1864 and RF-48 having ATCC number CRL-1863.

Claim 3 (Original) A method for assessing the (regulation of) expression, synthesis and/or secretion of ghrelin, wherein a cell line derived from a gastric adenocarcinoma and capable of producing ghrelin when grown in a suitable medium, is grown in such medium.

Claim 4 (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the cell line is selected from RF-1 having ATCC number CRL-1864 and RF-48 having ATCC number CRL-1863.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~either one of claims 3 or 4~~claim 3, wherein the medium is Leibovitz's L15 containing 10% (vol/vol) foetal bovine serum and 2 mM L-glutamine, and wherein the cell line is grown at a temperature of 37° C in the absence of CO₂.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 5~~claim 3, wherein the medium is changed at least every 4 days.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 6~~claim 3, wherein the cell line is plated and grown in a culture plate after achieving cell confluence, wherein the plate is stored under the same incubation conditions as those used for growing the cell line, and wherein ghrelin production is measured using an immunoassay kit.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 7~~claim 3, wherein the cell line is used to study ghrelin gene expression, preferably by means of quantitative RT-PCR.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 8~~claim 3, wherein the cell line is exposed to a variety of test compounds.

Claim 10 (Original) The use of a cell line derived from a gastric adenocarcinoma that is capable of producing ghrelin when grown in a suitable medium, for assessing the (regulation of) ghrelin expression, synthesis and/or release in vitro.

Claim 11 (Original) The use according to claim 10, wherein the cell line is selected from RF-1 having ATCC number CRL-1864 and RF-48 having ATCC number CRL-1863.